

The Dtmnfhl of I Jcinius 131

mice and dauntless energy even in defeat rendered him a most formidable opponent

Lieinius fell back upon Nicomedia. His army was jjone. There was no time, to beat up new recruits, for the conqueror was haul upon his heels. He had *in* choose, theciore, between suicide, submission, and flight. He would perhaps have best consulted his fame hail he chosen the proud Roman way out of irreparable disaster and taken his life. Instead he be<;>ed that life tnijjht be spared him. The request would have* been hopeless, and would probably never have been made, had he not possessed in his wife, t'on.st.mtia, a very powerful advocate with her brother. Constant ia's pleading, were effectual: Cunstantine consented to see his beaten antagonist, who came humbly into his presence, laid his purple at the victor¹, feet, and .sued for life from the compassion of his master, It was a humiliating and an un-Roman Mvne, Cunstantine promised forgiveness, admitted the suppliant to the Imperial table, and then relegated him to Thessaloniea to .spend the remainder t»f his days in obscurity, la-cinius did not lonf, survive. Later historians, anxious to clear GwsUnliw's character of every stain, accused I.iciimiH of plotting against the generous Emperor who had spared him. Others declared that he fell in a soldier-' brawl: one even .says that the Senate passed a dcnvр devoting him to death. It in infinitely more probable that Constanline repented of his clrmrticy. No Roman Emperor seems to have been able tu endure for lon^ the existence of a ttbcruwncd rival, however impotent